

**Forest Inventory for Timber Sale Planning in Southern
Southeast Area**

FY2003 Request: \$100,000
Reference No: 35744

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Planning

Category: Development

Location: Southeast Alaska

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Election District: Districts 1-6

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2005

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Southern Southeast has the highest demand for value-added timber sales. DNR can sell the full annual allowable cut of state timber in this area. Current estimates of the allowable cut are based only on general acreage and volume figures. More accurate information is needed to take full advantage of the timber base without exceeding sustained yield. The inventory will also identify stands for long term planning, near-term harvest, thinning to accelerate growth and enhance wildlife habitat, and efficient access routes to these sites. This project supports the legislative measures for the amount of timber offered for sale and for value-added processing, and the cost per thousand board feet of timber offered.

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Gen Fund	\$100,000						\$100,000
Total:	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

No appropriations have been received for forest inventory in this area. The 1985 Haines inventory was completed through the combined efforts of agency staff and a consulting forester with a combination of operating and CIP funds, the same approach proposed for this project. In FY02, DNR received authorization to apply \$280.0 of timber sale receipts to removing barriers to value-added timber sales. Approximately \$35.0 in timber sale receipts will be applied to initial inventory work this year.

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This project would complete a timber inventory for Southern Southeast Alaska, from Ketchikan to Wrangell and Petersburg, including Prince of Wales and outlying islands. DNR recently completed area plans for this area, which stabilized the timber base, but only provided general acreage and volume figures for calculating the sustainable yield and annual allowable cut for this area. More accurate information is needed for long term planning and to ensure that we take full advantage of the timber base in this area without exceeding the sustained yield. Southern Southeast Alaska has the highest demand for value-added timber sales in the state, and DNR can sell the full annual allowable cut of timber on state land in this area. This project is needed to ensure that DNR meets its responsibility to plan and manage these lands for a sustained yield of renewable resources (AS 41.17.060(c), AS 38.05.112-.113), while continuing to support value-added businesses in southeast Alaska.

The inventory will be completed with a combination of in-house staff and private sector professional forestry consultants. Consultants will be contracted to research, consolidate, and document available state and federal information on the State's natural resources in the portions of Southern Southeast available for timber management under the area plans. In-house staff will monitor and check consultants' product, begin initial tree volume measurements, and use the on-going inventory information for immediate timber sale layout. Short term planning will be adjusted for this new inventory information.

This project will assess the quantity and quality of state forest lands for future management and budgeting decisions. DOF needs to identify existing stands of timber that can be economically harvested under existing levels of management, and stands that will benefit from more intensive management. This project will provide information on age classes, volumes, and site quality for the state forest land, and assess potential for increased production from practices such as pre-commercial and commercial thinning. The consultants will use 1991 aerial photos or a more recent equivalent to develop a conceptual management plan that proposes management units and a transportation system to access these units.

The contractors will

- Consider specific biological constraints to active management such as high-value resident fish waterbodies and eagle nesting sites, management restrictions established by Area Plans, and long term plans on adjacent US Forest Service land.
- Field verify the available state and federal information for apparent errors and omissions.
- Ensure that age, timber type, and management restrictions are correctly documented.
- Field check and verify the approximate composition by species, stocking and age of the different stands.
- Field check and verify the major drainages located on the aerial photos that hold potential for fish habitat or directly effecting water quality of fisheries.
- Field check and verify the quality of the existing roads and associated drainage structures and their priority for future maintenance to be in compliance with the FRPA.
- Document the existing conditions incorporating the condition of the roads on adjacent ownership required for access to the conceptual units under State management.
- Document obvious authorized and unauthorized use of the area by private citizens.
- Consolidate and correct the conceptual management plan to reflect conditions found during the field checks.
- Produce a written final report with a working map of the proposed plan at a scale of 1"=1320 or less that meets the standards of the FRPA notification form. Classify timber types on aerial photos to correlate to the map. The written report will detail the key constraints and opportunities of the management blocks, and recommend management actions for the next 75 years for each management unit.

The State will provide 1991 aerial color photos with stereo coverage of the units, a copy of each of the Area Plans, 1"= 1320' USGS referenced base maps and digital orthophotos.

Project Benefits:

The future of the Division of Forestry value added program in Southern Southeast Alaska depends on accurate inventory information to plan and defend a stable level of sales throughout the rotation cycle. In the absence of accurate, dependable information, sale offerings will have to be kept well below the estimated sustainable level, and opportunities to support and strengthen the value-added sector will be lost. In FY 00 alone, state timber from Southern Southeast Alaska helped support 15 local, value-added businesses. An additional benefit will be short term employment for local timber consultants. Operating costs will be reduced by providing accurate information to maximize productivity and eliminating duplication of sale preparation work.

This project will help meet the legislative missions and measures for the volume of state timber offered for sale, the amount of state timber offered for sale for value-added processing, and the cost per thousand board feet of timber offered for sale.

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Projected Revenue to the State:

While the inventory itself won't provide revenue, it is a necessary foundation for the State timber sale program. Timber sales in Southern Southeast could generate approximately \$250.0 annually.

Specific Spending Detail:

Personal Services

\$20.0 for in-area and out-of-area staff to collect initial information for inventory planning mapping, and analysis. Field check consultants' field and office work. Begin field inventory plots.

Travel

\$9.0 travel and per diem for state staff to perform field checks and begin inventory plots.

Contractual

\$65.0 Consultants to research, consolidate, and document available information on the State's timber resources. Includes mapping, photo analysis, field verification of timber types, composition, stocking, age classes, site quality, and other field information related to the inventory. This includes wages and expenses.

Supplies

\$6.0 Aerial photographs, maps, and digital mapping information for inventory.

Project Support:

Alaska Forest Association, local wood processors, SEACC, City and Borough of Ketchikan, City of Wrangell, City of Petersburg, and almost all small communities in the Southern Southeast. Even groups that do not traditionally support timber harvesting do support development of accurate data for forest management.

Project Opposition:

None known.